

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen



Photos (3) by Karl Weisel



Photo right: Soldiers of the 1-36th Infantry line up for formation during the Welcome Home Ceremony Sept. 15 on Friedberg's Ray Barracks. Photo above: Thirteen cannon salutes opened the official ceremony. Photo left: Battalion commanders and command sergeants major uncasing the unit colors symbolizing the completion of the mission and the return to home bases in Friedberg and Giessen.



## Community celebrates end of deployment

**By Alexandra Williams**  
284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Sept. 15 was the long-awaited day for the community to officially welcome home Giessen and Friedberg Soldiers after a 15-month deployment to Iraq.

Thousands of community members converged on Friedberg's Ray Barracks to enjoy a unit colors uncasing ceremony, children's games, karaoke, free food, fireworks and live entertainment.

### Live performances

Among the highlights for many attendees was the live comedy by Chris Titus and performances by funk-rap group Custom Made and alternative rock band Puddle of Mudd.

"I like the fest, it's relaxing and I get to spend some quality time with my son Arsenio," said Sgt. Chris Scrivens from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment.

"The community worked hard on this event," he said. "I never expected that they would have so many bands. It's a great event — they did a good job showing their appreciation."

"It's so good to see the guys from the other battalions again. The deployment brought many of us Soldiers closer," said Pfc. Mohamed Azeez, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Battalion. "I was sent back with the advance party, and the whole time while I was back I thought of my fellow Soldiers. I felt like I was leaving

them behind. Thank God my unit did not lose anybody."

"The celebration is the beginning of a hopefully normal way of life," said 1st Sgt. David Baade, Company B, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment. "It's great to see the post alive again, to see all these people and families. Now the families are together again, and that's what this fest today is all about."

### Feeling appreciated

"It's good to see all the people I have not seen in weeks. I definitely feel appreciated by the community, and it's good to do a fest for the whole family, it helps with the integration," said Staff Sgt. Eduard Medeiros of Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery.

"I am glad that we have this celebration.

It shows the support of the community towards the Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Neftali Sanchez, also from Battery C, 2-3rd FA.

"I was on leave for 27 days — well deserved leave — but I am ready to go back to work," he said.

"I really liked the award ceremony they held this morning. It's great to see that they thank the Soldiers and wives for their hard work," said Katja Fox, whose husband, Staff Sgt. Sean Fox, was deployed with Company B, 1-37th Armor. "This and the fest, but also all the other events and trips they did for us before the guys returned, are a thank you to us from the leadership. That's at least how I see it. I would have been really disappointed if they had not done anything."



Photo by Karl Weisel

Children and parents gather around the "balloon man" to watch the artist making balloon animals. Photo right: Children have fun making giant bubbles. The welcome home celebration offered a variety of free games and crafts for children.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

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Photo by Karl Weisel

Alternative rock band Puddle of Mudd rocks the fest tent crowd during the Welcome Home Celebration Sept. 15 on Friedberg's Ray Barracks. The hard-rocking band also performed at Baumholder's Welcome Home Festival and for Soldiers deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Other highlights of the Friedberg festivities included performances by comedian Christopher Titus, funk-rap band Custom Made and country and western band Kings of Cotton. Soldiers and families enjoyed free food while taking in the variety of entertainment both inside and outside the huge fest tents.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Fireworks illuminate the skies over Friedberg Sept. 15.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Aaqib Azeez (right), 16 months old, and Reginald Stewart, library technician of the Giessen Library, read a book in the storymobile. The popular red bus was one of the main attractions for children.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Arsenio Scrivens, age 4, draws a picture for his father Sgt. Chris Scrivens from Company B, 2-37th Armor, during the welcome home celebration in Friedberg.

## Soldiers remember MP killed in Iraq

### Giessen officer slain while serving on second deployment

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Seven months after returning from Iraq another casualty has hit home for the 527th Military Police Company in Giessen. 1st Lt. Timothy Price of the 1st Platoon, 527th MP Company, was killed in Baghdad Sept. 7 when he came under attack by hostile forces using small-arms fire while on patrol with the Hanau-based 127th MP Company.

Price had volunteered to return to Iraq to serve as a platoon leader with the 127th MPs.

More than 300 people — including Soldiers, civilians, family members and Maj. Gen. Walter Wajdowski, V Corps deputy commander — attended the Sept. 10 memorial service at the Giessen Chapel.

“It’s a sign of community. Everybody pulls together. We work and play and mourn together,” said Capt. William Rodgers, 527th MP Company commander.

“It’s no surprise to see that so many people attended the service,” said Rodgers. “Tim was the kind of guy who would always put others before himself. He was a great officer and a great guy. He was not only a hero but also an awesome leader.”

### Good leader

“He joined the company last year in May while we were deployed to Iraq. He was always with his Soldiers,” he said. “He would ride with them to wash the vehicles and help them clean the latrines. He has put himself out there a lot, but as a good leader you have to do that to know what the Soldiers are going through. Tim loved being with his Soldiers. He loved taking care of them. Tim was like a brother; he was one of us. He was just as much a friend as a colleague.”

### Car accident in North Carolina

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

A few days into block leave that followed the 15-month Iraq deployment, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, had to mourn the death of a buddy.

Only a few weeks after his 20th birthday Spc. Charles Latham of Company C, 1-36th Infantry, died Aug. 8 in a car accident while on leave in his hometown of East Flat Rock, N.C. Latham was killed when the vehicle he was driving at more than 65 miles an hour in a 30 mph zone went out of control and struck a tree.

Hundreds of Spartan Battalion Soldiers attended a memorial service held for Latham Sept. 8 in the Friedberg Chapel.

“Spc. Charles Latham of Charlie Hard Rock was tragically taken from us in recent weeks following a lengthy deployment to Baghdad. He was very fortunate to have survived the dangerous mission and to be able to return safely home to his friends and family,” said Chap-

lain (Capt.) Lew Messinger, battalion chaplain.

“Spc. Latham’s accidental death is difficult to accept because he was one of us. He was one of the overwhelming majority of Soldiers who deployed, did some extraordinary things in dangerous times and places and lived to tell us about it,” Messinger said.

### Tragic accident

“All too many Soldiers in the last year have had their lives ended because of the bent wills of an angry insurgency, because someone pulled the trigger, because someone else drove or parked a car bomb or because another simply pushed a button,” said Messinger.

“But all these things fortunately escaped Spc. Latham. He was able to survive and go home on a well-deserved leave and go back to a much safer, friendlier place,” he said.

“He was able to go driving around back home far from harm’s way in Baghdad or Karbala or Beslan. A tragic accident took our brother,” he said.

“It’s always hard to lose a Soldier,” said Rodgers, “but to lose a Soldier who volunteered to go back to Iraq is especially hard.

“It was like a dream. It’s different when you are down-range because you are there and you know what happened. When you are over here you don’t know the whole story right away — you have to piece the story together,” Rodgers said.

“I was doing a case when they told me and it immediately hit me,” said Spc. Justin Dolly of 1st Platoon, 527th MP Company. “It’s hard to describe. You know it, but you don’t want to believe it. No one will ever be able to replace him in the company — he’s an irreplaceable man.

“He was an awesome man. He cared for us and it was mutual — I don’t think that anybody disliked him,” Dolly said.

“What impressed us most was that he would always get stuff for us. He was working day and night,” said Dolly. “One day I asked him why he never takes a break and he explained that he was trying to get this award, for which a unit receives additional money, for our company.

“Though he was a lieutenant and outranked most of us, he was always eager to learn about everybody else’s jobs.



1st Lt. Timothy Price

He always asked ‘how does this work’ because he wanted to know everything. He was a great leader and I will definitely never forget him,” Dolly said.

“He was always smiling and he always cheered people up. Even when they were hurt, he would make them smile,” said Sgt. James Arntz, also from 1st Platoon and Price’s driver. “He also did great impressions; his Austin Powers impressions were great. He was the king of pranks.

“Lt. Price would listen to all of us and learn from our experiences,” added Arntz. “He listened to noncommissioned officers as well as Joes [enlisted Soldiers] and just used our knowledge in his planning. He was willing to learn from us, and he was very conscious about his Soldiers. He would work two, three shifts just to make sure that someone would get some time off.

“He was not afraid to get in harm’s way. He always rolled out — he would get the mission done,” Arntz said.

“His death is surreal. I still expect to hear from him,” he said. “I will never forget him. I’ve seen hundreds of leaders and he’s by far the best officer I’ve ever met. I would have followed him anywhere.

“As Soldiers, we all feel each other’s pain. There are a few things that will always bring Soldiers together — that’s combat, grief, a newborn, a birthday and the death of a fellow Soldier,” Arntz said.

Price cared about the community he lived in, said Sue Ellis of the Giessen Community Bank. “I remember him very well because I helped him open a bank account when he came back to Giessen. He wrote us a comment card. You know, taking the time to comment on our service shows that he was a person who really cared and tried to help out. It’s so sad and tragic that he died,” she said.

Among other awards Price earned the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster and a Purple Heart.

He is survived by his parents, John Price III and Kathy J. Bogdan Price, and his brother, Thomas W. Price.

## Friedberg Soldier dies while on block leave

Latham joined the Army in June 2002. Upon completion of initial training he was sent to Friedberg to serve as a rifleman and automatic rifleman with 2nd Platoon, Company C.

“I met Charles about two years ago in Grafenwöhr. He was the first person to welcome me when I first arrived and we’ve been friends since that time,” said Pfc. Jered Meadows, also from Company C.

Latham and Meadows worked in the same team and patrolled together in Iraq.

“The deployment was dangerous, and we were happy that we made it back home safely. We made plans to hang out together and he told me about the kind of car he wanted to get,” Meadows said.

Meadows learned about Latham’s death upon returning from block leave.

“It took a long time to hit. I just couldn’t believe it. I will never forget him. He was a good person. There was nothing he wouldn’t have done to help another person or to save his team,” he said. “He

was a strong person who never gave up and always strived to do better.”

During the deployment Latham received two Army Commendation Medals.

He is survived by his parents Raymond and Diana Latham of East Flat Rock, N.C., and two younger brothers.

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Community spotlight

### AAFES job fairs

AAFES Human Resources hosts a job fair at the Bad Nauheim PostExchange Oct. 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and at the Butzbach PX Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are unable to attend the job fair you can get more information about job openings in the 284th BSB area at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com). Interested local nationals should visit the Human Resources Office at the Wolfgang Shopping Center, next to Popeye's. It's open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### SAS open house

School-Age Services hosts an open house Oct. 14 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Giessen, Butzbach, Bad Nauheim and Friedberg SAS centers. Parents can learn details about the Lights On Afterschool programs which aim to bring attention to the need for after-school programs to keep children safe, help working families and improve academic achievement. For more information call Giessen mil 343-6128, Butzbach civ (06033) 744401, Bad Nauheim mil 324-3137 or Friedberg call mil 324-3492.

### Homework tutoring

Youth Services located in Building 1714 in Giessen's Dulles Housing offers a homework tutoring program and computer lab for youths registered with YS. Van shuttle service is available to pick up students from Giessen Elementary School at 2:25 p.m. and from Giessen Middle/High School at 2:40 p.m. Parents must sign a permission slip for their children to ride the bus. Parents must pick up youths from the YS or

give them permission to walk home. For details call mil 343-7028.

### Outprocessing briefings

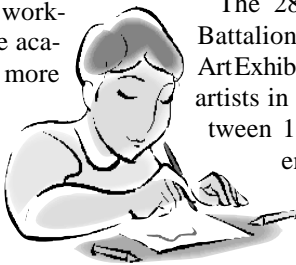
The next PCS/ETS outprocessing briefing takes place Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the ITC classroom in Building 4 on the Giessen Depot. Spouses are encouraged to attend the class. For details call mil 343-8077/6535/7362.

### Officer Candidate School board

The 284th Base Support Battalion hosts an Officer Candidate School board Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. in the BSB conference room in Building 115 on the Giessen Depot. Packets must be turned in to the BSB Adjutant's Office no later than Nov. 5. For details call mil 343-8995.

### Fine arts exhibition

The 284th Base Support Battalion hosts an Annual Art Exhibition Dec. 18. Young artists in the 284th BSB between 11-18 years old are encouraged to enter their artwork. Eligible are: monochromatic drawings, multi-colored drawings, pastel, watercolor, oil or acrylic paintings, prints, mixed media, collage, sculpture and graphic arts. Work must have been completed within the last year, and art must be original. Artists may enter in every category, but only enter one piece per category. Pieces from a kit tracing "follow-the-dot" are not eligible. Size of the piece may not exceed 30 by 40 inches and artwork must not be signed. All entries must be submitted to Youth Services by



Nov. 19. For details call Edgardo Rosales at civ (0641) 402-6129 or (06033) 73048.

### Sure Start in Butzbach

Butzbach Elementary School continues to accept applications for the Sure Start preschool program for the new school year. Children must meet the following criteria: ♦ Must be 4 years old by Oct. 31; ♦ Family income is E-1 to E-4 or GS-1 to GS-04; ♦ Child was of low birth weight; ♦ Child has a parent who has not graduated from high school; ♦ Child has three or more siblings close in age range. Families that meet selection criteria will also volunteer in Sure Start for 40-60 hours within the school year. To learn more about Sure Start call civ (06033) 74520.

### Childbirth, newborn classes

Giessen Army Community Service hosts a **Childbirth Class** for expectant parents Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 3 on the Giessen Depot. The class provides information that will help parents prepare both mentally and physically for the birth of the baby. A **Newborn Care** class is scheduled for Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Butzbach Outreach Center in Building 6543. To register call the New Parent Education and Support Program at civ (0641) 402-9311.

### Warrant Officer's Ball to be held Nov. 6 in Heidelberg

The U.S. Army Warrant Officer's Corps holds its 86th anni-

versary ball Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. at the Village Pavilion in Heidelberg. Reservations must be made by Oct. 21. For more information send an email to [g4mrdclix@hq.c5.army.mil](mailto:g4mrdclix@hq.c5.army.mil), call Victor McLaughlin at mil 370-5427 or Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Peterman at mil 379-6444.

### Do not leave car idling

Leaving cars idling — whether in front of the mailroom to check for mail or using the teller machine at the bank — is not only against host nation law it's also inconsiderate. Violators can be fined. Leaving a car idling longer than three minutes also: ☞ pollutes the air; ☞ provides thieves an opportunity to steal one's vehicle; and ☞ wastes gas. For more information on this topic contact the Directorate of Public Works customer affairs adviser at mil 343-6305.

### DA photos in Giessen

Appointments for Department of the Army, passport and chain of command photos are now available

at the Giessen Training Support Center Visual Information office located in Building 12 on the Giessen Depot. Passport photos are provided for official passports only. Anyone needing an official passport must go to the Passport Office first to get a work order (3903). After being issued the work order call mil 343-6122 to arrange for an appointment. Official photos are free of charge and can be taken within a few minutes.

### Police officers sought by Richmond Police Department

A recruiting team from the Richmond, Va., Police Department will conduct a briefing about available jobs, answer questions and provide assistance in applying for jobs Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. at the Hanau Army Career and Alumni Program office and Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. at the Giessen ACAP office. Applicant testing will follow by appointment. For details call Claire Sowinski at mil 343-9332.

## Voting assistance available online, through your unit

Each federal department and agency with personnel covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act is required to have a Voting Assistance Program.

Voting assistance officers play a critical role. These individuals, military or civilian, are responsible for providing accurate, non-partisan voting information and assistance to citizens attempting to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

In addition the Department of State offers voting services through its embassies and consulates to all U.S. citizens outside the United States.

In the 284th Base Support Battalion the following voting action officers are available for assistance:

**284th BSB** — John Miller, mil 343-8996, fax mil 343-7838 or email [j.miller@us.army.mil](mailto:j.miller@us.army.mil);

**Headquarters and Headquarters Company/Brigade Ready Team, 1st Brigade:** Staff Sgt. Raymond L. Cropps, mil 324-3833, email [Raymond.cropps@us.army.mil](mailto:Raymond.cropps@us.army.mil);

**1-36th Infantry Regiment:** Sgt. Daniel Miller, mil 324-2158, email [daniel.j.miller3@us.army.mil](mailto:daniel.j.miller3@us.army.mil);

[army.mil](mailto:army.mil);

**1-37th Armor Regiment:** 2nd Lt. Joshua Fuller, mil 324-3454, email [Joshua.fuller@us.army.mil](mailto:Joshua.fuller@us.army.mil);

**2-37th Armor Regiment:** 2nd Lt. Thomas Campbell, mil 324-3238, email [Thomas.george.campbell@us.army.mil](mailto:Thomas.george.campbell@us.army.mil);

**501st Forward Support Battalion:** 2nd Lt. John M. Lloyd, mil 324-3560, email [johnny.lloyd@us.army.mil](mailto:johnny.lloyd@us.army.mil);

**16th Engineer Battalion:** Sgt. Ryan Darby, mil 343-7513, email [ryan.darby@us.army.mil](mailto:ryan.darby@us.army.mil);

**2-3rd Field Artillery:** 2nd Lt. Timothy Jenkins, mil 334-7802, email [timothy.jenkins@us.army.mil](mailto:timothy.jenkins@us.army.mil);

**Department of the Army:** James Davis, civ (703) 325-4530, mil 221-4530, fax civ (703) 325-4532 or mil 221-4532, email [davisj@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:davisj@hoffman.army.mil).

Online voting assistance, including absentee ballot requests and where to send the postcard application, is available by visiting the 104th Area Support Group's home page at [www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil](http://www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil) and clicking on "Online voting assistance" at the top of the page.

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Community notes . . . Community notes

### WIC-O job opening

The Hanau office of the Women, Infants and Children-Overseas program will have a full/part-time registered nurse or dietician/nutritionist position available in December. Experience in maternal, child or infant nutrition is desired. WIC experience is desirable but not required. Must have a valid Army in Europe driver's license. Call civ (06181) 88-9636 for information and/or email your resume to [kay.klumpyan@104asg.mwr.army.mil](mailto:kay.klumpyan@104asg.mwr.army.mil) or fax to civ (06181) 88-5312.

### Protest Women of the Chapel event

The Hanau Chapter of the Protestant Women of the Chapel will feature Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Randy Dolinger speaking about how to "Know Your Enemy and his Tactics," and a brunch Oct. 7 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Pioneer Chapel. Free watch care will be provided for children under age 5.

### Awana Kids Club

The Awana Kids Club, a Protestant program sponsored by 414th Base Support Battalion's Chaplains Office, will meet every Tuesday from 6-7:45 p.m. starting Oct. 5 at Argonner Elementary School on Old Argonner Kaserne. The club is open to children in grades kindergarten to six. Meetings include Scripture memorization, games and fellowship. Parents are asked to come early Oct. 5 to register their child or children. Awana also welcomes volunteers who would like to contribute their gifts and abilities in music, training and games. Call Terri Petrie at civ (06051) 828 655 or Chaplain (Capt.) Xuan Tran at mil 322-7013 for details.

### What's Out There Fair

Whether you are new to the area or trying to find out what's happening in the community, the What's Out There Fair will have something for you. The 2004 What's Out There Fair is on Oct. 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pioneer Fitness Center on Pioneer Kaserne. Learn more about on- and off-post services and organizations available in the 414th Base Support Battalion. Take part in hands on demonstrations, static displays and fun activities. Children's games, food, beverages and wine and cheese vendors will also be available. For more information call Army Community Service at mil 322-8963 or civ (06181) 88-8963.

### Hearts United Group

The Hearts United Group is a support group for family members of deployed loved ones. Counselors are on site to assist with any issues. The group meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Büdingen Army Community Service, Building 2207. Call Keylah Bonebrake at mil 321-4786 or civ (06042) 80-786

for more information. Although most of the Soldiers have returned, this group will continue to meet in September and October.

### Recruit the Recruiter

A Recruit the Recruiter Team will brief specialists through sergeants first class at the Evening Star Theater on Pioneer Kaserne Oct. 15 at 1:30 p.m. regarding benefits, challenges and qualifications of recruiting duty. Noncommissioned officers who are interested in more money, faster promotions and assignment preference should not miss this presentation. Attendance of all noncommissioned officers is highly encouraged; spouses are also invited to attend. A personal interview following the briefing will determine qualifications. For more information call Sgt. Vershinin at mil 322-8144.

### Army Community Service

Hanau Army Community Service offers an **Employment Orientation** Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 10-11:30 a.m. A **Dress for Success** seminar will be held Oct. 6 from 10-11:30 a.m. An **Interview Techniques** seminar will be held Oct. 7 from 10-11:30 a.m. Classes take place in Building 9, Room 104 on Pioneer Kaserne. For information call mil 322-9191. ACS has 13 computers available for you to create your resume and search the Internet for vacancies. All computers are equipped with Internet access, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Visit ACS on Pioneer Kaserne, Building 9, Room 204, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Bike race Oct. 2, main gate closed

A bike race will be held Oct. 2 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne featuring various age categories and distances. Americans are encouraged to sponsor German riders. For information contact Larry Bostick at mil 322-8034, civ (06181) 88-8034 or [larry.bostick@104asg.army.mil](mailto:larry.bostick@104asg.army.mil). During the race the main gate to Pioneer Kaserne will be closed to all traffic except race participants. All vehicular traffic will enter through the Pioneer Housing area gate which will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and all traffic will exit Pioneer via the back road (along the railroad, past Vehicle Registration to the gate by Building 1). All barracks residents should park at the Pioneer Chapel parking lot. Access the shoppette, laundromat and library by using the back road.

### Issues of concern

Submit your issues to be considered at the 414th Base Support Battalion's Army Family Action Plan Conference by Jan. 14. Fill out an issue sheet and mail it to 414th BSB Army Community Service, AFAP Coordinator, Unit 20193 Box

0006, APO AE 09165. Or fill out the issue sheet online by clicking on the AFAP link on the 414th BSB website, [www.hanau.army.mil](http://www.hanau.army.mil). You can also send your concerns by email to [afap.issues@104asg.mwr.army.mil](mailto:afap.issues@104asg.mwr.army.mil). AFAP is an opportunity for Soldiers, family members and Department of Defense civilians to voice their opinions and offer quality of life enhancement suggestions. Call Amy Cuebas at mil 322-8766 or civ (06181) 88-8766.

### Do-it-yourself classes

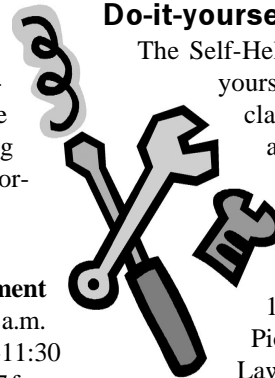
The Self-Help Stores offer basic and advanced do-it-yourself classes in Hanau and Büdingen. The classes are free for occupants of government and leased housing. Stop by your local Self-Help Store to reserve a spot or on the day of the class. Classes will be held at the Büdingen Self-Help Store in Building 2208 on Armstrong Barracks Mondays from 10-11 a.m. and at Hanau Self-Help, Building 28 on Pioneer Kaserne, Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. Lawn mowers, leaf blowers, goggles, weed eaters and other lawn care tools are free loaner items. Gas is even provided for the gas mowers. You do not have to be a building coordinator to sign out these items. Call the Büdingen store at mil 321-4778 or the Hanau store at mil 322-8200 for information.

### Tax preparation for redeploying Soldiers

Tax preparation is available for redeploying Soldiers at the Hanau Legal Center, Building 4, third floor on Pioneer Kaserne through Sept. 30. Redeploying Soldiers have an automatic filing extension which is comprised of the number of days spent in a combat zone plus six months. Appointments, walk-ins and drop-offs will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. After Sept. 30 all clients must wait until the re-opening of the Tax Center in February 2005. Call mil 322-8993 or civ (06181) 88 8993 or stop by Legal Assistance at the Hanau Legal Center.

### American Red Cross classes

Hanau's American Red Cross offers classes in CPR and first aid the second week of each month on Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Recertification classes are held Wednesday from 10-12 a.m. Register at the Red Cross Office in Building 4 on Pioneer Kaserne by paying in advance for the class and book. The classes cost \$30 for CPR and first aid, \$35 for professional rescuer and \$10 for recertification. All classes are held in the American Red Cross office. Other classes are available on request. Call mil 322-1760 or civ (06181) 88-1760.



Photos by Midori VanBrunt

### Newly expanded BookMark

Hanau's bookstore at the Wolfgang Shopping Center has been expanded with a host of new features including Internet stations, a children's section and a coffee shop featuring tables and snacks. It's now open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. "We expanded all the book sections, especially the travel, magazines and language sections," said manager Ray Lester.

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Air defenders hone warfighting skills

By Spc. Peter Holzer

69th Air Defense Artillery Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of Hanau's 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, recently completed a battalion-wide, two-week field training exercise in Kitzingen and Grafenwöhr. The exercise, known as Operation Fierce Eagle, involved all five Patriot firing batteries, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and the battalion's maintenance company.

The exercise was aimed at enhancing the battalion's warfighting ability, said Maj. Shana Peck, battalion operations officer, achieving successful battery and crew certifications, establishing and maintaining communications and conducting force protection training.

"Soldiers were motivated and excited to be able to train on their wartime tasks. We moved all of the batteries at least three times, in some cases four times across a distance of over 150 miles. I've seen improvement across the battalion in nearly every area," said Peck.

"I like the field," said Pfc. Matt Huttner, a Patriot launcher operator and maintainer in D Battery. "It's different than the everyday routine; out here it's a challenge. ... You can get a real feeling for what your job would be like in combat, and you get to do what you signed up for — to use the equipment, not just make sure it works."

Each of the battalion's five firing batteries passed their Gunnery Table VIII certifications during Fierce Eagle. The Table VIII is a timed evaluation of march order and emplacement of the Patriot weapon system, air battle and air defense operations, and other wartime tasks.

Pfc. Chris Baker, a Patriot launcher operator and maintainer in D Battery was disappointed when the evaluation for his battery ended. "I like the competition in crew drills — not just with the other batteries, but also with the other launcher crews in my own unit."

"Training in the field hones a Soldier's skills for wartime," said Capt. James A. Stegall, HHB commander. "We train as we fight. For me, a field training exercise is an attempt to create the most difficult conditions you can to create realistic training."

"Soldiers work hard and they do the right thing when no one is looking. The whole unit has done an outstanding job. After changing sites three times in less than seven days, they've managed to reduce the amount of time it takes to set up the command and operations center for the battalion by 66 percent. These last two weeks this unit has really exercised itself and its equipment."

Stegall said training in Germany is generally more challenging than in the United States.

"Back at Fort Bliss, Texas, we conduct



Photo by Spc. Peter Holzer

Members of Battery E, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, practice removing expended missile canisters from a Patriot launching station in preparation for an evaluation.

our exercises in the middle of the desert, hundreds of miles from anything, in a closed training area. Out here in Germany, our convoys frequently travel the Autobahn, and although our training takes place on land leased by the government, German civilians frequently turn up on our sites. Interacting with German civilians during

training makes things a little more interesting, but lends itself to a more realistic and true-to-life situation."

"It was a good thing we came out here," said 1st Sgt. Manuel Mirabal, HHB. "We identified our flaws. Also, we have a lot of new people in key positions. It was good to get out here and do our jobs, and learn to work as a team."

For Spc. Willie Davis, a Patriot enhanced operator maintainer in E Battery, this field training exercise was special.

"This will be my last [field training exercise] with 5-7th ADA. ... The training here is rough, but it's relevant; it's the key to a successful operation, and we take training very seriously in Echo. I had a lot of fun during this exercise."

The key to jumping to different sites is being able to do it quickly, Davis said. "Practice makes perfect. Patriot is a mobile weapon, so we have to be able to move it over and over again, quickly and to the standard."

Upon their return, 5-7th ADA will begin a recovery period and prepare for another two-week deployment to Grafenwöhr for individual and crew served weapons qualifications, culminating with a convoy live-fire exercise.

### Partnership winners

The 130th Engineer Brigade was one of two Hanau-based units receiving a USAREUR Project Partnership Award at a ceremony at Kaiserslautern's Armstrong Club Sept. 17. The ceremony honored the winners for 2002 and 2003. The 130th Engineer Brigade and the German Pionier Brigade 40 (which has since been deactivated) won the 2002 Brigade level category. Capt. Sedrick Jackson, commander of HHC, 130th Engineer Brigade, accepted the award for the Americans and 1st Lt. Rene Doll of the Pionier Brigade 100 (the 130th's partnership unit) accepted for the Germans. The 127th Aviation Support Battalion won the 2002 Gen. George S. Blanchard Award and the Battalion category award along with the German Nachschubbataillon 51.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

### Pet Jamboree to be held in Büdingen Oct. 2

Büdingen Army Community Service will host a Pet Jamboree Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. on the parade field on Armstrong Barracks.

Activities will include a three-kilometer doggie walk, races, contests, prizes and a K-9 demonstration by the Military Police.

Call Büdingen ACS at mil 321-4786 or civ (06042) 80786 for details.

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photo by Karl Weisel

Children get their faces painted during the Welcome Home festivities on Fliegerhorst airfield Sept. 17. Photo right: Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division's 4th Brigade display the unit colors during the ceremony. Photo below: a member of the Hometown News team films a family's holiday greetings during the Welcome Home Celebration. The holiday messages will be broadcast on state-side television stations during the holiday season.



Photo by Midori VanBrunt



Photo by Midori VanBrunt



Photo by Karl Weisel



Photo by Karl Weisel

Sgt. Robert Renny enjoys the festivities with his 10-month-old son Tyler. Photo left: Visitors examine an Abrams tank on display.

## Celebrating .....

**Continued from page 1**

accomplishments in Iraq," said Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commander.

"We really are lucky to be surrounded by heroes. How else would you describe a group of people, far from home, in a foreign land, accomplishing multiple, complex tasks simultaneously, with great perseverance, bravery and patriotism," asked Dempsey during his speech in Friedberg. "I'm speaking, of course, about our family members, because that's exactly what they did."

"I realize that we will never fully understand how difficult this deployment was on you. I know that we can never thank you adequately for all you did to help us accomplish our critical mission. ... We can tell you that each and every day we were away from you, we worked tirelessly to make both our sacrifices and yours matter ... We can state that we made a positive difference in the world our children will grow up in," he said.

"Remember our fallen comrades and those of our fellow Soldiers who remain in harm's

way," Dempsey added, before releasing the assembled units to enjoy the day-long festivities.

At events in Baumholder, Friedberg and Hanau community members were treated to everything from live contemporary bands such as Puddle of Mudd and comedian Chris Titus to carnival rides, magicians, static displays, free food and a host of other entertainments.

"It's great to be home with the family," said Sgt. Robert Renny, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, at the Welcome Home Ceremony in Hanau, describing how much his 10-month-old son, Tyler, had grown while he was gone.

"It's nice to have some help with the baby," added his wife, Vanessa.

Robert, who re-enlisted to stay with his unit in Germany, said he and his wife plan to travel more now that he's back from Operation Iraqi



Photo by Karl Weisel  
Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey.

Freedom, hoping to visit London, Ireland and Egypt.

"It's a great day to be home," said Col. Dyfied Harris, 1st Armored Division's 4th Brigade commander. "It's good to be here after a long tour in Iraq. ... God blessed us and we didn't lose too many Soldiers."

"It's wonderful to be back," said Spc. Scott Nelson of Büdingen's Comanche Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, explaining that the hardest part of the 15-month deployment was being separated from his fiancée. "The first thing I did when I got back was call my fiancée, just to say hello — and I had a beer."

"For a year and a half we've been hoping and praying for a speedy and safe return of our Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, 414th Base Support Battalion commander, during a reception at the Hanau Welcome Home Ceremony. "I am delighted to say that

our Soldiers are finally home. The troops from Hanau, Erlensee and Büdingen have made the world a safer place and we are enormously proud of them. Four of them gave their lives for the cause of a better world, and we will never forget their sacrifice."

Many German officials were also on hand to join in the homecoming celebrations in Baumholder, Friedberg and Hanau.

"Our German partners have become more important and more appreciated than ever before," said Ehmann. "The Bundeswehr, Pond's guards, police forces and fire brigades have provided a safe and secure environment on the home front enabling our Soldiers to focus on the war front. We extend our greatest thanks to them for providing the protection that we were unable to provide for ourselves during the deployment."

"To all who toiled and sacrificed in service to freedom, congratulations and great thanks for a job well done," Ehmann said.

A final Welcome Home Celebration was slated to be hosted by the 221st BSB in Wiesbaden Oct. 7.



Photo by Karl Weisel

The cast of the Five Pfennig Playhouse's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" rehearses a scene in anticipation of opening night Sept. 30.

## 'Snow White' takes stage

*Original songs featured in Five Pfennig production*

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

You could say the Hanau Five Pfennig Playhouse's latest production is a fairytale come true. Not only will theatergoers be treated to performances by over 30 young thespians, they'll get a chance to hear the premiere of an original musical score composed by long-time Five Pfennig music director Alex Nitschke and 414th Base Support Battalion entertainment director William Hauserman.

"This is a community theater and we wanted to do a play for community children age 6-15," said Barrie Louise Reece, director of Hanau's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" which will be featured on the Hanau stage Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and 2.

"We found a script that we liked and wrote to the publisher for permission to write songs," said Hauserman. With a script written by Kathryn Schultz Miller, the

Hanau version is chockful of whimsical songs with lyrics by Hauserman and music by Nitschke.

"We went through the script and found places where songs ought to be and then I composed the lyrics," said Hauserman. "In writing the lyrics, I kind of had a melody in my head, but I didn't want to influence Alex's work with the music."

The songwriters ended up composing eight songs, he said. "It was something new for me."

"We had two auditions and a pretty good turnout," said Reece. "A lot of the children actors are first-timers, but some have already done some shows."

"It's a lot of fun directing," added Reece, who works at the theater as a recreational aid and performed in the theater's production of "Anything Goes." "Of course you always have challenges putting a show together, but this is about teamwork. They (the children) are doing a pretty good job and I'm

very proud of them.

"It's really nice to see what kids can do in four weeks of rehearsals," she said, adding, "And it's a fun show to do."

"I like dressing up and being funny," said 8-year-old Mitchell Moore. "It's actually fun being up on stage."

"I like the singing," said his sister, Marissa.

"There are a couple of little surprises in the show," said Reece. "It's not the way people know it from the Disney film."

Tickets for "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" are \$5 and will be available at the theater which is located in Building 405 on Hanau's Old Argonner Kaserne. Performances start at 7 p.m. Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and 2.

The Five Pfennig Playhouse presents the musical comedy "Little Shop of Horrors" Oct. 15, 21-23 and 28-30 at 7:30 p.m. Make reservations by calling the Hanau USO at mil322-8275.